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World Summit on Sustainable Development

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Agenda item 12
Draft plan of implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Letter dated 4 September 2002 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, on behalf of the Member States that are members of the European Union, addressed to the President of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

I would like to make some statements. The first concerns "The way forward on renewable energy".

The European Union fully appreciates the wording on energy in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. We think the decisions taken in this area are an important step forward.

However, we would like to reiterate how crucial it is to acknowledge that urgent action is needed in the area of renewable energy. Therefore, we are ready to go beyond the commitments in the Plan of Implementation.

The European Union and a group of like-minded countries would like to make a declaration called "The way forward on renewable energy". The declaration should be circulated to all delegations (see annex).

At the same time, we would like to invite other countries to join the declaration by adding their name to the list of like-minded countries.

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Annex to the letter dated 4 September 2002 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, on behalf of the Member States that are members of the European Union, addressed to the President of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Joint declaration by Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, the European Union, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Alliance of Small Island States, Switzerland and Turkey

"The way forward on renewable energy"[a]

1. We express our strong commitment to the promotion of renewable energy and to the increase of the share of renewable energy sources in the global total primary energy supply. We fully endorse the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, considering it a good basis for further international cooperation, and intend to go beyond the agreement reached in the area of renewable energy.

2. Increasing the use of renewable energy is an essential element to achieve sustainable development at the national and global levels. Renewable energy can provide important new ways to reduce pollution, diversify and secure the energy supply and help provide access to energy in support of poverty eradication. Furthermore, the burning of fossil fuels is the biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions and these emissions need to be reduced to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change in order to achieve the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to prevent dangerous climate change.

3. We commit ourselves to cooperating in the further development and promotion of renewable energy technologies. Recognizing the sense of urgency as expressed in paragraph 19 (e) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, we will work together to substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources, with regular review of progress, on the basis of clear and ambitious time bound targets set at the national, regional and hopefully at the global level.

4. We have adopted, or will adopt, such targets for the increase of renewable energy and we encourage others to do likewise. We are convinced that this will help to implement the necessary policies to deliver a substantial increase in the global share of renewable energy sources. Such targets are important tools to guide investment and develop the market for renewable energy technologies.

5. We commit ourselves to working with others to achieve this goal, especially through the partnership initiatives being taken, which could contribute to expanding the use of renewable energy, as well as forthcoming international conferences on renewable energy.

[a] Argentina, Brazil, Croatia, Chile, Egypt and Uganda expressed their support for the declaration.